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BOOK REVIEWS.

MT. VERNON, WASHINGTON'S HOME AND THE NATION'S SHRINE. By Paul Wilshatch, Author of "Richard Mansfield, the Man and the Actor," &c., Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1916, pp. 301, with 52 illustrations.

There has been much written about the most famous dwelling in America; but nothing like this book. There have been dry collections of facts about part of the history of Mt. Vernon, and readable, but inaccurate accounts of other portions; but in no one volume, complete and handsome, has the whole story been told with most careful accuracy and yet in an agreeable and attractive style. The author has studied most thoroughly all sources of information in regard to Mt. Vernon and its occupants and has combined in his work, much never before included in any one volume. The story begins with the first settlement of the Potomac country and continues down with great wealth of detail, to the present time. It is by far the best work of its kind which has ever appeared.

In the multiplicity of sources he had to study the author was bound to make a few slips. Bryan Fairfax (p. 18) did not ordinarily assume his title; but did go to England and have it confirmed by the House of Lords. The weapons illustrated opposite page 26 are hardly "battle-axes," but seem to be halberds. On page 43, Wm. Byrd, 3d of the name, has been mistaken for his father, and the Raleigh Tavern (p. 61) does not "still stand." It was burnt years ago. But there are trivial matters which do not offset the great volume and interest of the book.

THE HAMILTONS OF BURNSIDE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS. By Patrick Hamilton Baskervill, A. M. (U. of Va.), Richmond, Va. Richmond, Va., Wm. Ellis Jones' Sons, Incorporated, 1916, pp. 158, with several illustrations, maps and charts.

Mr. Baskervill, who has done such good genealogical work on his paternal ancestry, studies in this book, another ancestral line, that of Patrick Hamilton, who was born at Burnside, Scotland, in 1789, and emigrated to North Carolina in 1807. The emigrant was descended from James Hamilton, of East Quarter, who lived about 1655, and seems to have been a cadet of Hamilton, of Parkhead. This family in turn branches from the Hamiltons of Orkston, who began with a young son of the Hamiltons of Cadzow, ancestors of the ducal house. Mr. Basker-

vill has, as he says, not attempted a history of the Hamiltons, but has made a most thorough study of the various lines from which the Hamiltons of Burnside, N. C., were certainly or probably descended. As in his former work Mr. Baskerville makes no unfounded claims; but states frankly all difficulties. The book is a valuable addition to Scottish-American genealogy.

VIRGINIA COUNTIES: THOSE RESULTING FROM VIRGINIA LEGISLATION. By Morgan Poitiaux Robinson, Archivist. Bulletin of the Virginia State Library, January-July 1916. Richmond, Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1916, pp. 283, with twelve maps.

When it is said of a book that it completely and finally accomplishes the object for which it was written, there need be but little more said of it than to describe its subject. It can be stated with confidence that Mr. Robinson's book has told all that there is to tell about the origin and growth of Virginia counties, and has done it in a most thorough and scholarly way. A preface which explains the plan of the work and which contains an admirably compact history of the settlement, is followed by a table of counties arranged in alphabetical order, which also gives the dates of formation, "the land formed from," and reference to the authorities. Next come the counties in chronological arrangement, then the geographical arrangement, with a very valuable series of maps showing the growth of population. This is followed by a series of charts showing the "genealogies" of the counties—how one was formed from another and became the parent of a third,—and finally the texts of acts of Assembly concerning counties which do not appear in Hening's Statutes at Large (recently obtained from London) and a bibliography.

It is difficult to speak too highly of the way in which Mr. Robinson has done this work. On almost every page is evidence of intense labor; and this tireless labor has been accompanied by scholarly judgement. To the historian of Virginia and her counties, the lawyer and the genealogist, this work is indispensable.

THE BALKAN WARS, 1912-1913. By Jacob Gould Schurman. Third Edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton (&c.), 1916, pp. 140, with maps.

The value of this work is shown by the fact that this is the third edition. At the present time it is even more interesting than when it was first published, for the authors statement made Nov. 26, 1914, in the preface to third edition, that "It is not inconceivable that some or all of those states may be drawn into the present colossal conflict," has been most fully realized.

INDEX OF THE ROLLS OF HONOR (ANCESTORS INDEX) TO THE LINEAGE BOOKS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMER-